The Eastern Echo

Students petition election day off - page 3

Tuesday, September 24, 2024 | Volume 141, Issue 06 Serving EMU and Ypsilanti since 1881

EMU assures safety in demolition of Brown-Munson, Jones-Goddard

Colae Eason
News Reporter

As the demolition of the Brown-Munson apartments and the Jones-Goddard residence halls continues, debris, dust and active demolition zones can be real safety concerns for campus community members.

The university would like to reassure students that these projects are safe and the necessary precautions have been taken to successfully and safely demolish these buildings on campus.

All demolition sites have a full-time safety manager in charge, surveillance cameras, and daily checks are done to ensure the safety and security of the sites, Eastern Michigan University Vice President for Communications, Walter Kraft, said in an email.

Vehicle flaggers, who are responsible for controlling traffic flow to protect workers and the public, are also present at these sites, Kraft said.

To prevent any unauthorized access to these areas, there is on-site management by construction during work hours, along with full-time surveillance cameras and monitoring by the EMU Police, according to Kraft.

Though students and faculty are allowed to be near these sites, Kraft is assuring students that there is no environmental or safety risk to the public from the demolition process, he said.

To ensure this, perimeter air monitoring is performed by a third-party testing firm and in coordination with EMU's Environmental Health and Safety department, along with the best industry practice and Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration compliant control of any dust and debris, said Kraft.

Though not anticipated, the university has protocols in place for timely communication with the campus community if any unexpected safety issues, delays or concerns arise, Kraft said.

"The university would like to reassure students that these projects are safe," Walter Kraft said.

The demolition of the Brown and Munson apartment building during the week of August 26. Roderick Martin / *The Eastern Echo*

Ypsilanti City Council approves clerk's daughter as contract employee for election

Gabriella Payeur
News Reporter

On Tuesday, Sept. 17, the Ypsilanti City Council met for their second of two monthly meetings. The City Hall was lively with chatter beforehand, despite only about 10 people in total attending. Several people were also present via Zoom.

A big decision of the night was when the council unanimously approved Molly Boudreau to be hired as a contract employee for elections. Molly Boudreau is the daughter of City Clerk Tracey Boudreau.

This resolution was put forward by Clerk Boudreau. She says the two current election staff members will not have enough availability in the coming months to properly help her with fulfilling all the duties an election requires. She adds that the current political climate does not help, such as in the event of a recount, she may not have enough staff to recount effectively.

Several council members were hesitant and had questions. Notably, Councilwoman Desirae Simmons raised questions about the length of the contracting period and how long the position would take to fill if it was posted as a regular position.

City Manager Andrew Hellenga explained that this is a limited position with an end date. City Attorney John Barr adds that if Bourdeau would want to contract her daughter again in the future, it would need to come before the council again. Bourdeau and Hellenga agreed that the position would be difficult to fill if regularly posted with the experience needed and time before the person would need to start.

According to the Code of Ordinances for the city of Ypsilanti, Mich., article 11.05, a unanimous vote is needed to approve the employment of a relative of a current elective or appointive officer, city manager, or department head. This unanimous decision was made by the city council last night.

City Attorney Barr further clarified that he is the one who will be writing the contract for Molly Boudreau. This will be signed for approval by Clerk Boudreau. All timesheets are first signed by the clerk's deputy, then the clerk herself. This contract may look different from the previous two because the Clerk changed, noted Mayor Brown.

A resolution to extend the contract with Governmental Consulting Services, Inc. (GCSI) was debated as well. The Associative Vice President of GCSI Dwayne Gill advocated for the extension. He cited several instances of GCSI effectively lobbying for Ypsilanti. Gill said much of what they do is a team effort with other members of the council, however, they managed to get $1.5 million to fix the Cross St. bridge and got up to $3 million for infrastructure projects.

Mayor Brown also advocated for their services by saying she has heard Ypsilanti being talked about more since they started working together.

According to the City of Ypsilanti Regular Council Meeting agenda posted on Ypsilanti City's website, this extension is from Oct. 1, 2024 to Sept. 30, 2025. This document states there is a $3,000 per month retainer. However, council members looked around in confusion when Mayor Pro-Tem Steve Wilcoxen pointed out that the actual contract was not in the agenda packet.

City Manager Hellenga stated, "It's exactly the same stipulations of the previous contract, so a year at $3,000."

At the request of Mayor Brown, Hellenga forwarded the contract to all the council members.

Despite the confusion, the contract was unanimously approved to be extended.

Also unanimously passed was the Adaptive Reuse Planned Unit Development (PUD) for Highscope Childcare. This PUD takes existing, out-of-use buildings and adapts them to be put to new uses.

In the case of Highscope Childcare, they will be adapting single-family homes 202 and 206 E. Forest Ave. and vacant church 218 E. Forest Ave. There are three phases to this plan, however, they are only acting on phase one at this time.

Phase one will cost $1 million, which will be paid for by the grant received by HighScope Child Care from the state of Michigan.

202 and 206 E. Forest Ave. are currently being used as childcare centers, according to City Planner Josh Burns. He added that the 218 E. Forest Ave. building will build on them, becoming a community center where HighScope will provide things such as meals, childcare training, community outreach sessions, etc.

According to the HighScope Child Care representative, this community center at 218 E. Forest will be free for users. Additionally, the next phases would come within the next five years, however, that will depend on funding and the grants that they can get from the state.

Electronic Messaging Board regulation changes were unanimously approved, as well. These are small wording changes that restrict EMBs from being active from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. and from being placed in certain areas of Ypsilanti. It also updates the sizes, and maximum number that may be present in a district, limiting text to only be monochromatic and that the text on them may not change more than once every two minutes.

These updates come from a review of other cities and township's policies and what is the most common practice among them, says City Planner Burns.

The delegates for the Oct. 10 and 11 Municipal Employees' Retirement System annual meeting were unanimously agreed upon, as well. Tom Koch will be the employee delegate with Delonzo Weaver as an alternate. Tracey Boudreau will be the officer delegate with Bonnie Wessler as an alternate.

The resolution to transfer $1.2 million from the general fund into the budget stabilization, or rainy day, fund was postponed to Oct. 15. This decision was made 6-1 with Councilwoman Simmons voting no. She originally proposed to postpone it to Nov. 12, but the rest of the council felt that was too long to wait. This postponement is so the council can first be briefed on the fiscal year, then make a more educated vote, said council member Patrick McLean.

Postponed, as well, was the request from the Sustainability Commission to allocate $3,000 for the Earth Day event. This is due to no paperwork being filed on how the money would go to use. According to Commission Liaison Simmons, this is double the amount approved last year. The council will have them fill out the proper paperwork and revisit this issue at the Nov. 12 council meeting. This was a unanimous decision.

To close out the meeting several council members spoke on their positive experience attending the Michigan Municipal League (MML) conference. Mayor Brown specifically spoke about learning about processes and protocols for school lockdowns and shootings. She said she has received several complaints and worries following an Ypsilanti elementary school's delayed dismissal. Attending the MML conference has given her ideas on how to address these concerns. More information on this should be coming soon, potentially at the next city council meeting on Oct. 1.

The Eastern Echo

The Eastern Echo serves the Eastern Michigan University and Ypsilanti-area communities as an independent student-operated newspaper. Founded in 1881 as The Normal News, The Echo distributes weekly printed editions on campus and throughout the surrounding community during the fall and winter academic semesters; and publishes year-round on the web. Contents are subject to copyright and may not be reproduced without prior written consent of the newspaper.

COPYRIGHT @ 2024 (The Eastern Echo)
All rights reserved.

www.EasternEcho.com

THE ECHO MISSION

The Eastern Echo informs the Eastern Michigan University and Ypsilanti community by highlighting newsworthy content in a fair, accurate and timely manner.

HOW TO REACH US

The Eastern Echo Fall 2024 Editorial Board

Editor-in-Chief:
Ameera Salman
editor@easternecho.com

Managing Editor:
Emma Owens
managing@easternecho.com

Sports Editor:
Elena Davis
sports@easternecho.com

Podcast Editor:
Alex Kreps
podcast@easternecho.com

Arts Editor,
Cellar Roots Editor-in-Chief:
Madison Cantrell
cellarroots@easternecho.com

Design Chief:
Rylee Curley
design@easternecho.com

Photo Editor:
Max Taylor
photo@easternecho.com

Digital Editor:
Julez DeShetler
digital@easternecho.com

Copy Editors:
Noah Cimaroli
Allie Beecher
copyeditor@easternecho.com

Business Manager:
Aidan Bonney
advertising@easternecho.com

Student Media Advisor:
Christine Uthoff
advisor@easternecho.com

PICK UP A COPY

Print editions published Tuesdays from late August to early May are available in racks or on tables in all academic buildings on the EMU campus, and at dozens of businesses in the community.

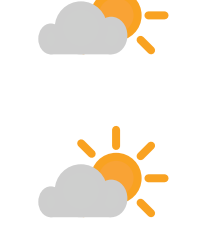
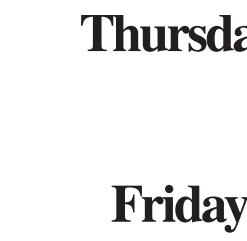
Among those businesses are:

- Savvy Sliders on Washtenaw Ave.
- Basil Babes on Cross St.
- Sweetwaters on Cross St.

CORRECTIONS

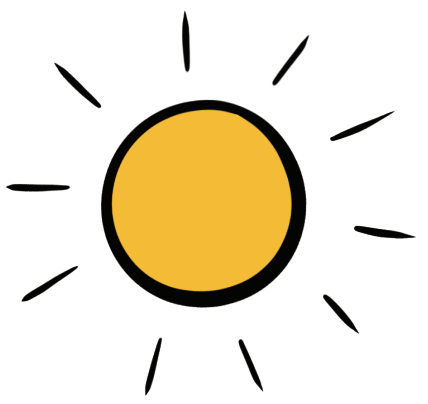
In the Sept. 17 print edition of *The Eastern Echo*, the program sponsor of "ExploreYpsi" was misprinted. The correct sponsor of this event is the Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority. This change has also been reflected in the web version of the article which can be found at easternecho.com.

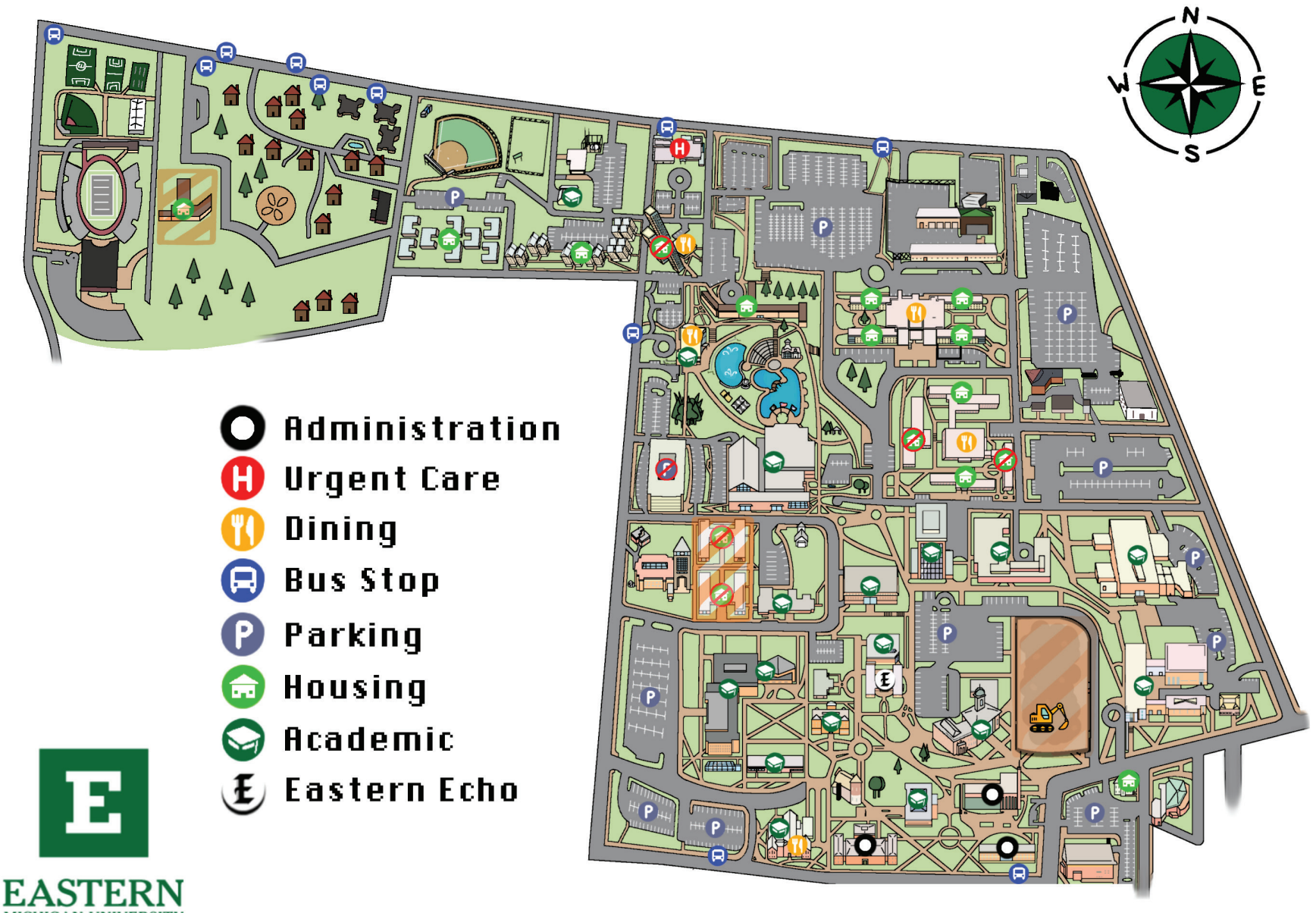
Weekly Calendar

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24	WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25	THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26	FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27	SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28	SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29
POP-OFF CLOTHING SWAP STUDENT CENTER 350 4 P.M. - 6 P.M. 	STUDENT EMPLOYMENT BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES MCKENNY HALL 200 12 P.M. - 1 P.M.  BREAK OUT OF YOUR BUBBLE W/BOBA LAKE HOUSE 4 P.M. - 6 P.M. 	ADULTING 101: RESUME & COVER LETTERS ZOOM 4 P.M. - 5 P.M. KITTEL & CO. AT THE FREIGHTHOUSE YPSILANTI FREIGHTHOUSE 7:30 P.M. 	TELLING TWAIN: STORIES BY STEVE DAUT YPSILANTI PERFORMANCE SPACE 8 P.M. 	FOR FAMILIES JAZZY ASH & THE LEAPING LIZARDS YPSILANTI FREIGHTHOUSE 7:30 P.M. 	YPSILANTI FALL RIVER DAY FROG ISLAND PARK 12 P.M. - 3 P.M.

Scoop's Forecast

71°	56°	**Tuesday, Sept. 24**	
73°	51°	**Wednesday, Sept. 25**	
73°	52°	**Thursday, Sept. 26**	
72°	51°	**Friday, Sept. 27**	
75°	51°	**Saturday, Sept. 28**	
75°	48°	**Sunday, Sept. 29**	
66°	43°	**Monday, Sept. 30**	





EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Student petition urges for no classes on election day

Gray Connor
Staff Writer

Election day is fast approaching, and three Eastern Michigan University upperclassmen are aiming to change campus policy before students hit the polls.

On Aug. 31st, 2024, Julianna Loomis, a sophomore studying both political science and nonprofit administration, created a petition on Change.org.

"When I first started working at engage, I was told we don't have Election day off on campus. I thought 'huh, somebody should change that,' and three days later I decided that someone could be me," Loomis said.

With nearly 800 signatures as of this writing, the petition recommends that EMU administration relieve students of class on election day to give more time for students to vote. The petition, titled: "Grant EMU Students a Break on Election Day, November 5th, 2024," states, "A designated Election Day school break will not only help ensure students aren't compromised between education and democracy, but also encourage higher voter turnout results among our university community."

Fellow upperclassmen, and Nonprofit Administration majors Emily Lopez and Chatham McGuire have also worked on the project. While the EMU administration has yet to comment on this request, the three hope to still create some type of change with their efforts.

"If not getting election day off, at least making sure that everybody knows that their constitutional right to vote is fundamental to their existence as a US citizen," Loomis said.

Around campus, EMU affiliated clubs and staff have been numerous in their efforts to encourage student participation in the upcoming election.. However, the three organizers of the election day petition believe that this support is not enough.

"I don't understand why on campus there are so many organizations that are encouraging people to vote, and educating them as much as they can - then stopping right before the finish line?" Lopez said.

As stated by the three students, the main goal of their petition remains making it as easy as possible for students to involve themselves civically.

"Historically younger people vote less. I want to motivate my peers and make it as convenient as possible to vote," Mcguire said, who wishes to see their efforts surpass just election day.

"If we can get through and get the day off, I don't think we should stop there. Making it a fully civic day, where students are encouraged to go to the polls and volunteer, watch the news, engage themselves in the election - educate them more of what's going on. Give students the full day to be completely immersed in it."

According to a 2020 article written by ABC news, young people are more likely to not vote because of the hurdles they face.

The group hopes, no matter the outcome of their petition, that their message is still heard. While mail-in voting is an option for students, the three recommend that students still try to go in person to the polls.

"I want to talk directly to the administration, and the people who make decisions about when our breaks are when I say this: We are here, we have voices and they do matter. I do not believe a university should be the first barrier students have to voting," Loomis said, who hopes the impact of their petition leaves students more informed, and more eager to vote this upcoming November.

To get a hold of the organizers directly, Julianna Loomis, the petition's original designer, can be contacted through email at: jloomis5@emich.edu.

To register for a mail-in ballot, students can find more information online at voteriders.org. For Ypsilanti residents wishing to vote in-person, poll locations can be found online at cityofypsilanti.com.

EMU student receives national Media Fellowship, scholarship

Olivia Hendry
News Reporter

Aidan Campbell, a public administration student with a minor in journalism, is one of the 65 recipients of the fall 2024 Media Fellows Scholarship, courtesy of the Washington Media Scholars Foundation.

The Washington Media Scholars Foundation is an organization that aims to support undergraduate media students by providing hands-on experiences, mentorships and financial assistance. They also partner with leading industry professionals to help further their skills and bring about more networking opportunities. On their website, the Foundation encouraged students whose career aspirations are at the intersection of advertising and public policy to apply. This includes those studying advertising, marketing, communications, political science, and more.

The scholarship originally piqued Campbell's interest over the summer when he was looking for scholarships for the upcoming school year.

"The program is definitely something that caught my interest immediately," Campbell said. "Thankfully I was able to get my hands on that one. Quite a bit of a process to earn it, but it was well worth it."

To apply, Campbell had to write a personal essay detailing his college aspirations and why the scholarship would contribute to those goals. Then, along with a resume, he needed a letter of recommendation. This came from Dr. You Li, an associate professor of journalism at Eastern Michigan University.

"I needed a letter of recommendation, which Professor You Li wrote for me, and I believe that was why I got the scholarship," Campbell said. "I took one of her classes my first semester and it really paid off, I feel like taking her course helped refine the knack for writing I already had."

A few months later, Campbell's knack for writing paid off in the form of scholarship acceptance.

"I was thrilled! Just because with how many people applied for the scholarship. I guess I might just be a pessimistic person, but I wasn't sure what was going to happen," Campbell said. "The scholarship helped take off a lot of the burden of paying for school off of my shoulders."

Receiving this scholarship has empowered Campbell to continue his degree, while also pursuing a career that combines both public administration and journalism. Having prior experience at his high school's newspaper, he recognizes the importance of providing powerful information to the public.

"I've always taken journalism to be something that is very important because as I said in my essay, I believe that knowledge is power and the journalists are the people who help distribute that power," Campbell said.

While Campbell does not know exactly where his career path will go, he is interested in bringing it to the local government sphere. By combining his writing abilities with administrative duties, he hopes to educate and empower his future community.

"There's a lot of situations where being an administrator would require having good writing skills, even if it's for local government, being an interpreter, or a communications representative. Someone who helps to give that information to people," Campbell said.

The Washington Media Scholars Foundation is currently accepting applications for their spring 2025 Media Fellows. For more information, visit mediascholars.org.

Dungeons & Dreadnots dreams up trip to Michigan Renaissance Faire

Victoria Huguley
News Reporter

Fairies, elves and mythical delight! On Saturday, Sept. 7, 2024, the club Dungeons & Dreadnots sponsored by Campus Life took students to the Michigan Renaissance Faire located in Holly, Mich.

"I have always loved going to the Holly Michigan Renaissance Faire; however, like some people, I don't have a car on campus. Last year, I spoke to many different people who had an interest in going to a Renaissance fair," club president Ava Kachnowoki said in a written statement. "I thought planning an event to go with transportation included would be cool. I wasn't 100% sure how to approach this, so I emailed campus life because they have planned events like this before. We decided to collaborate with each other for the event. This started last school year sometime around March."

Students who bought a ticket were instructed to arrive at the Student Center by 8:30 a.m. The bus was set to leave by 9 a.m. sharp to embark on an hour-long trip. At the faire, students were given a schedule detailing events for the day and told once more to return to the bus by 3 p.m. for the commute back to campus. Looking throughout the itinerary, students saw the weekend theme 'Wonders of the World.'

"Planning for trips is usually pretty straightforward. We looked at the theme weekends. D&D hosted a poll on their socials to see which theme had the most interest. Once we had the date, we booked the bus and talked through how much students might be able to afford, what the marketing process would look like, etc," Coordinator of Engagement and Activities, Juniper Bamrick said in a written statement.

After arriving back on campus, students explained their experiences.

Business management and marketing major Eriyana Jackson stated that this was her first time going to the Renaissance Faire.

"I was very excited. I've always wanted to go to the faire even when I was a kid. I was definitely expecting to have fun", Jackson said. "I was happy to finally have a turkey leg and to see the knights. I didn't expect it to be so big, which I loved!"

Like many students who attended this year's event, going to the faire may be a new experience, so for any newcomers, Kachnowoki and Bamrick had some advice.

"There are a lot of things to do at the fair. There are music performances and fun shows. Sometimes, there are costume contests; you can do archery and axe throwing. Most people there will be dressed in costume, but you will sometimes still see those in their streetwear. If it is your first time going to a Renaissance Faire, I highly encourage you to dress up. You get much more interaction from the performers and vendors at the fair, and it makes for a more fun experience. One also should not miss out on watching jousting. There are usually 3-4 time slots, and it is located in a huge outdoor arena," Kachnowoki said.

Bamrick's advice describes the atmosphere.

"I'd say expect crowds and lines, the only bathroom facilities they have are Port-a-Potties, and it's either dry and dusty or wet and muddy, so wear close-toed shoes. Additionally, many people dress up to go, but there are also many who don't, so there is no pressure either way. Go with an open mind and a cheerful heart, and you'll have a blast. There are performers and musicians and strange dudes yelling about their pickles for sale (actual pickles like from the jar) and, of course, fairies and mushroom costumes, jousting and big feather hats. They also have tons of sellers there with handmade artisan goods like jewelry, clothing, accessories, soaps, etc.," Bamrick said.

Students enjoy a trip to the Michigan Renaissance Faire hosted by Dungeons & Dreadnots and Campus Life. *Courtesy of Dungeons & Dreadnots*

What's the move? Sept. 23-29

Hunter Johnstone
News Reporter

Check out these events happening on and around Eastern Michigan University's campus this week.

Walking Tours of Campus to Celebrate 175 Years - Sept. 23

Enjoy learning about the history of EMU while taking a walk around campus. The walk is free and is LBC credit-approved. The walk will begin at Welch Hall and run from 9:30-10:15 a.m.

Breathe Nolan Breathe-Hazing Prevention Documentary - Sept. 23

Learn about the dangers of hazing and watch a documentary about the life of Nolan Burch. The documentary will be screened in the Student Center Auditorium from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Pop-Off Clothing Swap - Sept. 24

Find gender-affirming clothes at the LGBT Resource Center's monthly pop-up. The pop up is in Student Center 350 from 4 to 6 p.m.

Student Employment Brown Bag Lunch Series - Sept. 25

Bring your lunch to McKenny Hall 200 and get Student Employment assistance. The lunch runs from 12-1 p.m.

Break out of your Bubble w/ Boba - Sept. 25

Get tips about dealing with social anxiety while sipping on boba from Bambu. The gathering is at the Lake House from 4-6 p.m.

Adulting 101: Resume & Cover Letters - Sept. 26

Learn skills on crafting resumes and cover letters. The event is on Zoom from 4-5 p.m.

Kittel & Co. at the Freighthouse - Sept. 26

Enjoy music between classical and acoustic roots at the Ypsilanti Freighthouse. The performance is free and starts at 7:30 p.m.

Telling Twain: Stories by Steve Daut - Sept. 27

Hear some of Mark Twain's best short stories, adapted and told by Steve Daut. The event is $15 at the Ypsilanti Performance Space, starting at 8 p.m.

For Families Jazzy Ash & The Leaping Lizards at the Freighthouse - Sept. 28

Jazzy Ash invites you to a free interactive jazz concert for all ages. The concert is at the Ypsilanti Freighthouse and begins at 7:30 p.m.

Ypsilanti Fall River Day - Sept. 29

Enjoy crafts, games, a live river critters exhibit, and a nature hike at Frog Island Park from 12-3 p.m.

Read more on our website!

Libertarian Mark Alan King vies for Ward 3 city council seat

Colae Eason
News Reporter

Ypsilanti resident of six years and chair of the Libertarian Party of Huron-Raisin, Mark King will be on the November ballot as a city council candidate for Ypsilanti's 3rd Ward.

King also ran for mayor of Ypsilanti in 2022, which allowed him to interact with more citizens and get their perspectives, he said.

As a third-party candidate, it is difficult for King to spend a lot of time or effort campaigning mainly due to the straight-ticket voting policy in Ypsilanti, he said.

"Unfortunately, Ypsilanti is one of two cities in Michigan that has a partisan city council," King said.

This means that straight-ticket voting will apply to city officials, as opposed to only state and federal officials.

Local elections should not be affiliated with national political parties, King said.

"The national parties have their own focus," King said. "The focus is just way too broad to align with what a specific municipality might want,"

King's priorities if elected include addressing the city's property tax rates, crime, and members of the city council who appear to be too focused on pushing a political agenda, he said.

"Ypsilanti has a very high tax rate in the county and even the state of Michigan," King said. "This drives up costs all across the board, whether you're a homeowner or a renter,"

After speaking with homeowners and landlords in the city about their taxes, King says landlords are essentially forced to charge high rates of rent to afford those taxes.

"They may also do what we've seen all over the city where they segment a single-family house into six crappy little one-bedroom apartments," King said.

This also leads to a lack of property maintenance due to the amount of money that landlords owe to the city, King said.

King is also an employee at a local Ypsilanti bar, where he sees a lot of issues relating to loitering, soliciting, and aggressive panhandling, he said.

"You can't rely on the police department here because nobody actually wants to work for the Ypsilanti police department," King said.

King recalls personal encounters with the city's police department.

"I remember one time we had a smoke bomb thrown into the bar, and I called the police," King said. "It took two and a half hours for an officer to arrive."

The Ypsilanti police only showed up after King and other employees called Eastern Michigan police, who then requested backup to the bar, he said.

"That was the only way we got any attention," King said.

Any time King has called Ypsilanti police to the bar, they have taken anywhere from 40 minutes to two hours to arrive, he said.

"At that point, what's the point?" King said.

King also would like to address the use of city council positions to further national party agendas or issues, he said.

"It feels to me and a lot of people that I've talked to that people on the city council use it as their vanity project, where they can further their political stances not to the benefit of Ypsilanti," King said.

King used the city's resolution condemning Israel as an example.

"There is nothing stopping anyone on city council from making their own website and publishing opinions on there," King said.

King wants the city to focus on its own issues, like high tax rates and just running the city overall.

"It doesn't make sense for a small city in Michigan to take a stance on foreign affairs," King said. "We shouldn't be wasting our time with things like that."

As a Libertarian, King's views contrast with the current city council's, he said.

According to the Libertarian Party, libertarians strongly oppose any government interference in personal, family, and business decisions and believe all Americans should be free to live their lives and pursue their interests as long as they do no harm to another.

King wants Ypsilanti residents to strongly consider not checking the straight-party box if they want to see change within the city.

"If you see a problem, then stop voting for the same types of people," King said. "Clearly they don't want to actually solve the problem."

Regardless of the election results, King plans to remain active by attending city council meetings and providing a different perspective on how things are being run.

"I just want to keep things on point and focus on the things we need to be doing so that we can all live, work, and have fun in this town," King said.

Debbie Swanson, lifelong teacher, runs unopposed for township clerk

Gabriella Payeur
News Reporter

Debbie Swanson is running for Ypsilanti Township Clerk in the upcoming Nov. 5 general election. She is a life-long resident of Ypsilanti and an Eastern Michigan University alumni.

Currently, she is finishing out her term as township trustee. For the past four years and continuing forward she has served on the Ypsilanti Township Election Committee. For 20 years she was the township Park Commissioner. In addition to serving the Ypsilanit community, Swanson has worked as a teacher at Willow Run Community Schools and Ypsilanti Community Schools for the past 39 years.

During the Aug. 6 primary election she ran against Christina Benitez and won 61% of the vote. According to Washtenaw County's unofficial candidate list for the general election, she is now running unopposed.

Swanson is first working to address her lack of experience in politics. She acknowledges these criticisms by saying, "I am not going to know everything but I am really dedicated to the idea that I will work really hard to learn and put in the hard work to be a good clerk."

Swanson's main goal for this coming year is to get into office and start examining systems and policies, looking for places where improvements can be made. She wants to make sure her office is open and friendly so residents feel comfortable coming in with questions.

Additionally, she's learning about the election process and how to make it overall more transparent and easier for people to run for office.

Long term, Swanson wants to make the budget planning process more specific and detailed, while maintaining as much transparency as possible. She plans to work extensively with the board to ensure things continue to run smoothly and work on economic development, looking specifically at stabilizing neighborhoods and business districts.

Right now, Swanson is focusing her platform on collaborating with other elected officials to make sure things work the way they are supposed to. She wants her community to feel local politics are fair, transparent and that their vote is counted and protected no matter their political affiliations.

As the official record keeper for the township, she is focusing on making sure all systems function well. She says this is important because, "When systems don't function well, it is not healthy for people."

At the center of her campaign is people. Much of her experience thus far has come from her time working as a teacher in the local schools. This has fostered a deep caring and passion for the community. She says, "One of the things I value the most is the idea that community is so important, and it's really the people."

Swanson is taking this value with her into office as she works to find ways to better the systems already in place for the benefit of Ypsilanti residents. She also says, "This long-term impact that you have with people is probably the part that I enjoy the most."

A township clerk covers a broad base. The clerk is responsible for the actions taken by the township. They oversee the elections, aspects of accounting and are the official record keeper for all the business in the township including minutes, agendas, bids for projects, letters, etc.

To Swanson, being township clerk means being part of a team, collaborating with the trustees, supervisor, treasurer, etc.

Additionally, it means being someone who is going to be at meetings, manage the business of the clerk, and bring that perspective to the other board members.

It is important to her to be available for people, to work on and solve problems. Swanson says, "That is what I've had to do for 39 years, I've had to find a way to solve problems with other people in a way that keeps everybody healthy."

Stay up to date with all of *The Eastern Echo's* election coverage, in print and online!

THE EASTERN ECHO CLASSIFIEDS

ROUTE MANAGER
The Eastern Echo is seeking help to deliver newspapers once a week. The part-time job involves four to eight hours a week. Available routes include walking on campus, and an off-campus route that requires transportation. Routes are to be run Monday afternoons and during the day Tuesdays. To apply, send a note of interest and a resume to Business Manager Aidan Bonney at advertising@easternecho.com.

MAGAZINE STAFF
Cellar Roots is seeking content editors and designers for the 2024-25 academic year. The team will produce and publish the 51st edition of the literary magazine, which includes both visual and literacy arts created by students. Responsibilities: Acquire and curate a collection of student-produced works, coordinate with other student media groups, and organize the selection of content and publication of the magazine. To apply: By Oct. 15, 2024, send a resume and cover letter explaining the applicant's interest and ideas for the magazine to cellarroots@easternecho.com .

PAGE DESIGNER Like creating interesting designs with photos and words? Know how to use InDesign, or want to learn? Join the team at The Eastern Echo! The independent student-operated news team is seeking page designers for the 2024-25 academic year. The position includes a minimum wage and takes from five to 10 hours a week. To apply, send a resume, cover letter and design work examples to advisor@EasternEcho.com

GRAPHIC DESIGNER Have an artistic bent? Like flexing those creative muscles? Know how to use Canva or Illustrator? Or want to learn to use graphics tools? Join the team at The Eastern Echo! The independent student-operated news team is seeking graphic designers for the 2024-25 academic year. The position includes a minimum wage and takes from five to 10 hours a week depending on workload. To apply, send a resume, cover letter and design work examples to design@EasternEcho.com

LOST OR FOUND SOMETHING?
Use The Eastern Echo classifieds to message fellow students about items lost or found. Students using an emich.edu email to set up a classified account can advertise at no cost during the fall semester. Visit EasternEcho.com/classifieds to create an account and file your message.

STAY ON TOP OF CAMPUS NEWS
Whether on campus or home for a needed break, stay informed by subscribing to The Eastern Echo newsletter, or just bookmarking the website: www.EasternEcho.com. The Echo covers the university and Ypsilanti publishing online year-round and in weekly print editions during the fall and winter. Find more information at www.EasternEcho.com and check out the about page to sign up for the newsletter.

Eagles defeat St. Francis Friars in landslide shutout

Jack Monk
Sports Reporter

The Eastern Michigan University football team put on a spectacular performance on Hall of Fame Day, shutting out visiting St. Francis University, 36-0, on Saturday, September 21. The Eagles (3-1) displayed an impressive range of scoring, notching touchdowns through a defensive fumble return, a rushing play, a blocked punt, and aerial strikes, marking their first shutout victory since 2008.

First Quarter: Defensive Dominance Sets the Tone

The action started with St. Francis attempting to drive the ball, but the Eagle's defense held firm. The game's first highlight came when David Carter Jr. (Ecorse, Michigan) scooped up a fumbled snap and sprinted 99 yards for a touchdown, making it the most extended fumble return in EMU history and the fourth-longest scoring play in program history. The Eagles took an early lead of 6-0, extended by a 40-yard field goal from Jesús Gómez (Puebla, Mexico) to close the quarter at 10-0.

Watch David Carter Jr. make history with his incredible 99-yard fumble return for a touchdown, check out the jaw-dropping play here!

Second Quarter: Eagles Build Momentum

As the second quarter unfolded, Eastern Michigan's offense began to shine. Quarterback Cole Snyder (Lakewood, New York) orchestrated drives effectively, while Oran Singleton (Clewiston, Florida) contributed crucial first downs. A 49-yard field goal from Gómez made it 13-0 at halftime. The Eagle's defense continued to frustrate St. Francis, denying their offense any scoring opportunities.

Third Quarter: Expanding the Lead

The third quarter saw the Eagles increase their dominance. Delbert Mimms III (Indianapolis, Indiana) punched in a 1-yard touchdown, bringing the score to 19-0. Just moments later, a pivotal blocked punt by Joey Mattord (Hartland, Michigan) led to a touchdown by Kendrick Nowling (Chicago, Illinois), who recovered the ball in the end zone. Gómez added another field goal from 37 yards to round out the scoring for the quarter, leaving the Eagles firmly in control at 26-0.

Fourth Quarter: Record-Setting Plays

The final quarter featured a spectacular play as Jeremiah Salem (Germantown, Tennessee) threw an 89-yard touchdown to Zyell Griffin (Vancouver, Washington), marking the longest passing touchdown in EMU history. This explosive play capped off a dominant showing for the Eagles, finalizing the score at 36-0.

Post-Game Reflections

Head Coach Chris Creighton expressed pride in his team's performance, emphasizing the importance of consistent play. "It is fun to win, no doubt about it. Our standard is higher than just winning," he remarked. Reflecting on the game compared to the previous week, he noted the differences in pacing and the excitement among players getting their first taste of college action.

Player Highlights

Carter Jr. shared his thoughts on his impressive fumble return, saying, "At first, it was just a pile, and I saw the ball pop out, and nobody decided to grab it. It was just bodies on the ball. So I said, let me go ahead and grab it. At first, I was on my knees, as you have seen, on the replay and stuff. And then I noticed, like, okay, I'm able to get up and just take off. No whistles were blowing at all, so I just grabbed the ball, took off no whistles blown, and scored."

With standout performances across the board, including three field goals from Gómez, who now leads the Mid-American Conference with 42 points this season, the Eagles are riding high as they prepare for their upcoming game.

Looking Ahead

The Eagles will next face Kent State University in their Mid-American Conference opener on September 28 at 3:30 p.m. Fans can catch the game live on ESPN+ or listen on WEMU (89.1 FM).

Eagle Tips and Tales: Sept. 23-29

Elena Davis
Sports Editor

Eagle Tips and Tales is back, bringing you the latest updates on EMU Athletics! As September rolls on, here's what's happening from Sept. 23-29.

Soccer faces Toledo in Ypsilanti

On Sept. 26, the EMU women's soccer team returns home to take on Toledo in a key Mid-American Conference (MAC) match. Kickoff is at 4:30 p.m. at Scicluna Field in Ypsilanti, where the Eagles will look to secure a crucial win in front of their home crowd.

Volleyball battles Kent State

Later that evening, EMU volleyball heads on the road for back-to-back MAC matchups against Kent State. The Eagles will face off against the Golden Flashes at 6 p.m. on Sept. 26 and 27 in Kent, Ohio, with two key victories up for grabs as the team fights to improve its conference standing.

Football heads to Kent State

Eastern Michigan's football team will travel to Kent, Ohio, on Sept. 28 for their first Mid-American Conference (MAC) game of the season against Kent State. Kickoff is set for 3:30 p.m., and the Eagles will be looking to carry their momentum from non-conference play into this crucial matchup as they aim to start their MAC campaign with a win.

Men's golf at Virtues Intercollegiate

The EMU men's golf team is back in action from Sept. 28-29, competing at the Virtues Intercollegiate in Nashport, Ohio. This all-day event allows the Eagles to showcase their talent as they take on a competitive field.

Soccer Takes on Ball State

Wrapping up the week, EMU women's soccer hits the road on Sept. 29 to face Ball State. The match kicks off at 1 p.m. in Muncie, Indiana, as the Eagles continue their push through the MAC season.

Don't miss out!

Whether you're cheering on the soccer team in Ypsilanti, following the golf tournaments online, or tuning in to see football and volleyball battles on the road, there's plenty of action in Eastern Michigan athletics this week.

EMU, Central Michigan face off in MAC opener

Elena Davis
Sports Reporter

The Eastern Michigan University soccer team played to an exciting 2-2 draw against in-state rival Central Michigan University on Thursday, Sept. 19, at Scicluna Field. The match served as the Mid-American Conference (MAC) opener for both teams, with all four goals coming in the first half.

Sophomore Olivia Sipsock (Medina, Ohio/Medina) got the Eagles off to a strong start, scoring the first goal of the match in the 12th minute. Sipsock found the back of the net off a cross from sophomore Kate Robinson (Madison Heights, Michigan/Lamphere), who senior Maddie O'Farrell (Haslett, Michigan/Lansing Catholic) assisted. The early goal gave Eastern a 1-0 lead.

However, Central Michigan quickly responded with two goals, taking the lead in the 25th and 34th minutes. The Chippewas' offensive surge left the Eagles trailing 2-1. Still, redshirt sophomore Sophia Baumann (Romeo, Michigan/Romeo) scored her first career goal just before halftime to bring Eastern back on level terms. Baumann's left-footed strike from close range came after a long ball from junior Mary Grimes (Commerce Township, Michigan/Walled Lake Central), making it 2-2.

Despite several opportunities for both sides, neither team could find the winning goal in the second half. Eastern Michigan goalkeeper Ella Holland (Dunwoody, Georgia/Dunwoody/Samford), a redshirt sophomore, made a crucial diving save in the 87th minute to deny Central Michigan a late winner. Her effort helped the Eagles secure a point from the match.

Eastern Michigan led the game in shots, 14-7, while Central Michigan dominated in corner kicks with an 8-3 advantage.

The result extended Eastern Michigan's dominance in the all-time series against Central Michigan to 17-7-5. The Eagles have now scored in nine consecutive matches against the Chippewas, tied for the program's second-longest active streak against an opponent. After drawing a program-record six games in 2023, this was the first draw of the Eagles' 2024 season.

Eastern Michigan now sits at 4-3-1 on the season, while Central Michigan moves to 2-4-2. Sipsock's goal marked her fourth of the season, just one shy of her 2023 total. Baumann's equalizer was her first collegiate goal. Robinson, who led the MAC with seven assists last season, recorded her first assist of the 2024 campaign, while Grimes added her second assist of the year. Sophomore Sarah Van Euwen (Avon Lake, Ohio/Avon Lake) played the full 90 minutes, logging her seventh complete match.

Eastern Michigan will look to build on this performance when it travels to face undefeated University at Buffalo on Sunday, Sept. 22. Kickoff is set for 1 p.m.

Want the top weekly top stories delivered right to your inbox every Friday?

Subscribe to The Eastern Echo newsletter!

'Emily in Paris' finds love in Rome in latest season

Mariam Fakhreddine
Review Columnist

Season four of "Emily in Paris" was worth the wait, having a second part to season four made the show even more interesting. This season focused on Emily's journey throughout Rome and finding what makes her happy. Emily and Mindy both go through a wind of heartbreaks and adventures this season.

Review

Emily planned on visiting her family in Chicago for Christmas when her flight gets canceled. She ends up spending her holiday with Gabriel and Camille's family. This little trip takes her whole relationship through a test. When she is skiing with Camille and Gabriel, she becomes lost and ends up falling. When she is on the top of the hill she meets this charming Italian man named Marcello Muratori (Eugenio Franceschini). He helps her ski down the hill and leaves Emily in a furious state with Gabriel.

Highs

The highs in the second part of season four are around the romantic relationship between Emily and Marcello. The journey of leaving Gabriel has her in tears at first. Then fate brings Marcello back to see Emily again at a polo race that she attended with Mindy. The chemistry between Emily and Marcello is stronger than what she had with Gabriel. This love triangle gives the fans another exciting new romance.

Another high is how Sylvie values Emily, their bond continues to grow this season. The amount of trust she has in Emily has come a long way from season one where she couldn't even stand her. At the beginning of the second part, she upgraded Emily's business class to first class as a Christmas present. This shows how she truly cares for Emily and values her.

Collins's acting brilliantly captures Emily's sadness by demonstrating how she must move on from her experiences no matter what. Emily stands up for herself after all that Gabriel has put her through, this shows her true strength even when it hurts.

The friendship between Mindy and Emily is another high. Their bond is strong no matter the distance between them. Mindy is a highlight considering this second part shows her growth as a character. She is doing everything in her power to achieve her dream as a singer even when it comes to taking an uncomfortable job. The relationship she has with Nicola is intense and tension arises as he does not support her dreams. She stands up for herself regardless of the consequences and refuses to be controlled.

The last high is the setting of Rome and its beautiful architecture. It gives a lightness to all the heartbreak that Emily is experiencing. The adventure she goes on helps clear her head and changes her whole life.

Lows

There are minimal lows within these last few episodes. Given her malicious attempt, Laurent's daughter Genevieve (Thalia Besson), Sylvie's stepdaughter, is a low. Since Genevieve starts helping Sylvie at work, she shadows Emily. She takes advantage of the situation as soon as she sees Gabriel, Emily's ex. She seems to become obsessed with Gabriel and makes moves on him. This makes her an unlikable character because Emily is nothing but nice to her.

The fact that Alfie's character only appears twice in these most recent episodes and is not as involved in the second part is another low. Fans are disappointed since Emily values his character so much. Because of their distance from one another, Sylvie and Laurent's relationship is the other low point. After learning something, Sylvie begins to doubt Laurent.

Verdict

The new character, Marcello, makes the fans excited considering how charming and genuine he is. The ending leaves fans on a cliffhanger that makes them want the next season already.

Rating: 8.5 out of 10

Mariam Fakhreddine is a film and theater reviewer for The Eastern Echo. She has worked as a news and features reporter for The Echo for two years.

EMU THEATRE SCHEDULE 2024-2025

Ticket Office hours in the Judy Sturgis Hill building are 1-5 p.m., Monday-Friday, and 90 minutes before show time.

Alice By Heart
October 3-6, 2024 Suggested for ages 13+.

Silent Sky
November 21-24, 2024 Suggested for ages 12+.

A Midsummer Night's Dream
December 6-8*, 2024 Suggested for ages 12+. *Accessible with ASL.

The Rocky Horror Show
February 13-16, 2025 Suggested for mature audiences only.

Cause Play
April 3-6*, 2025 School Matinees April 7 & 8* Suggested for ages 9+. *Accessible with ASL.

The Girl Who Swallowed a Cactus
April 11 & 12, 2025 Suggested for ages 5+.

'The Perfect Couple' is a shocking thriller

Mariam Fakhreddine
Review Columnist

The highly anticipated adaptation of Elin Hilderbrand's best-selling novel, "The Perfect Couple," finally arrived on Netflix Sept. 5. With Nicole Kidman as Greer and Eve Hewson as Amelia, this show keeps the audience hooked with every episode.

Review

Eve Hewson's character, Amelia, is set to marry into one of Nantucket's wealthiest families. Nevertheless, her maid of honor is discovered deceased the night before her special day, and all of the wedding party members are now under suspicion. This turns the whole Winbury family into a distressed disaster.

Highs

The series' high point is the captivating plot about the death of Amelia's best friend, Merritt. This kept the audience intrigued and the mystery of her death was building with suspense. Hewson's acting as Amelia discovers her best friend's body in the ocean showed emotions of heartbreak and shock. This death changed her life forever. She doesn't give up on finding the truth about what happened to Merritt. Every time she found a piece of evidence, she turned it in regardless of the consequences. Her character is the most truthful when it comes to the others.

Kindman's acting as Greer was flawless, she played the mystery wife perfectly. Greer seems to be a perfect wife with her husband, Tag, but underneath is pain. She is depicted as untouchable and people fear her, especially her sons. The character growth she presents is amazing. The audience may dislike her at first, but by the end that all changes.

Another high is the setting of Nantucket, it is a beautiful beach house that shows how wealthy the Wilbury's are and it presents their family perfectly. The death happening on the beach was the kicker, it was hard to discover how Merritt was killed. The detectives on the case were persistent and determined to find the killer regardless of how wealthy the family was. Detective Henry and Chief Sergeant Carter interrogated every one of the snobs. No one could be trusted.

How the series captured the sequences of the murder was amazing, it showed flashbacks that helped the audience keep up with what the detectives were discovering. It was brought together beautifully. Another high was the ending of how shocking it was, it was the person the audience least expected.

Lows

There were minimal lows within the film. However, the sons, and how each one of them had terrible flaws. In particular, Thomas was the most irritating as his character was oblivious and did not help any situation. He was against his brother, Benji, all the time and didn't care for the pain he caused people.

When it came to Benji, he never stood up for Amelia when it came to his mother. He obeyed his mother at all times even when Amelia was going through the worst time of her life. His character could have been more of the strong man who would stand up for the woman he loved. The secrets that he kept destroyed the trust between him and Amelia.

Another low was Tag as a character, he was a playboy father who used his wife's money. His wife was the breadwinner and he would cheat on his wife and make situations worse. He had been causing trouble throughout her career and didn't think of the consequences.

Verdict

Given how captivating the story is and how unexpected the conclusion is, "The Perfect Couple" is worth the watch. The outstanding acting helped to shape the series into what it was. This is for a mature audience only.

Rating: 8.5 out of 10

Mariam Fakhreddine is a film and theater reviewer for The Eastern Echo. She has worked as a news and features reporter for The Echo for two years.

"Guess Who!"
Rylee Curley
Design Chief

"Burnout: The Pilot"
Funkyl0af
Comics Artists

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES *By The Mepham Group*

								2
		2	1	3		6		
	9	4			2			
	1		4		5		6	
	4			2				
	3		7				9	
			8			1	7	
		7		1	3	5		
3								

Level:
1 2
3 4

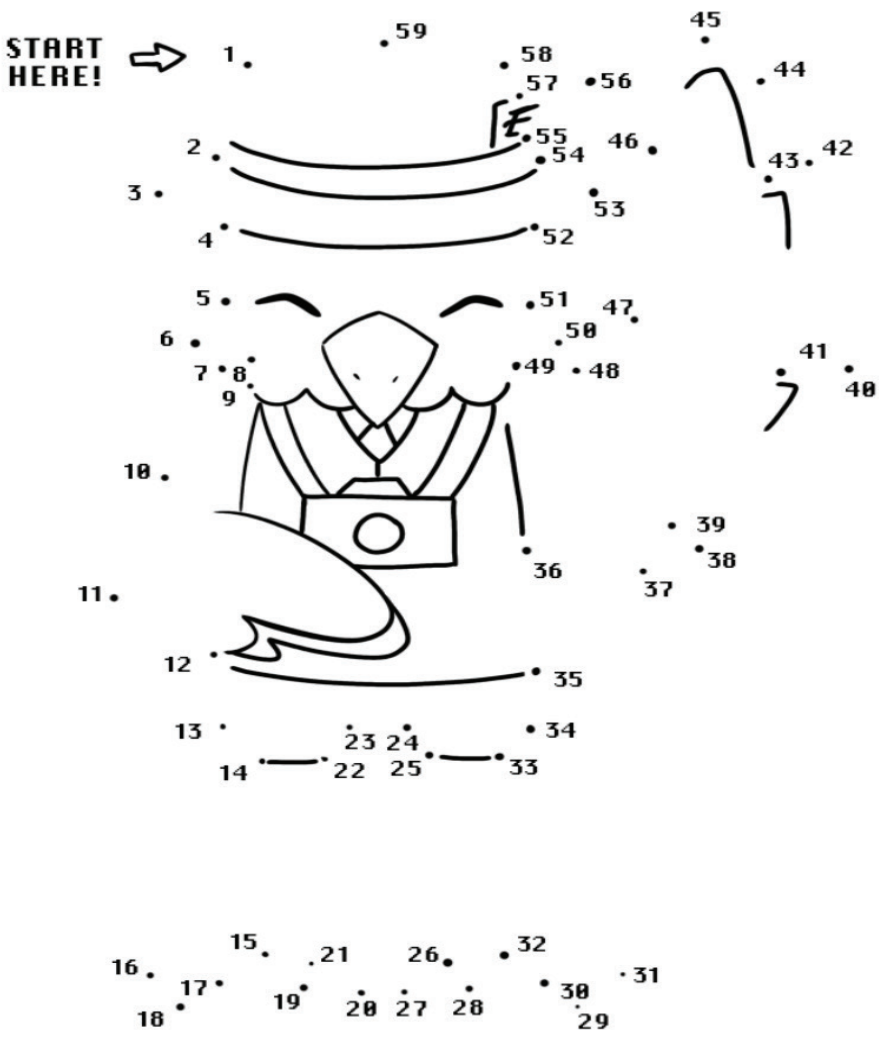
Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit **www.sudoku.org.uk**

SOLUTION TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

3	8	6	9	2	5	7	1	4
1	5	9	7	4	3	8	2	6
4	2	7	1	8	6	3	5	9
5	9	3	4	6	2	1	8	7
6	1	2	8	9	7	5	4	3
7	4	8	3	5	1	6	9	2
8	7	1	2	3	9	4	6	5
9	6	4	5	7	8	2	3	1
2	3	5	6	1	4	9	7	8

© 2012 The Mepham Group. Distributed by Tribune Media Services. All rights reserved.

Dot to dot



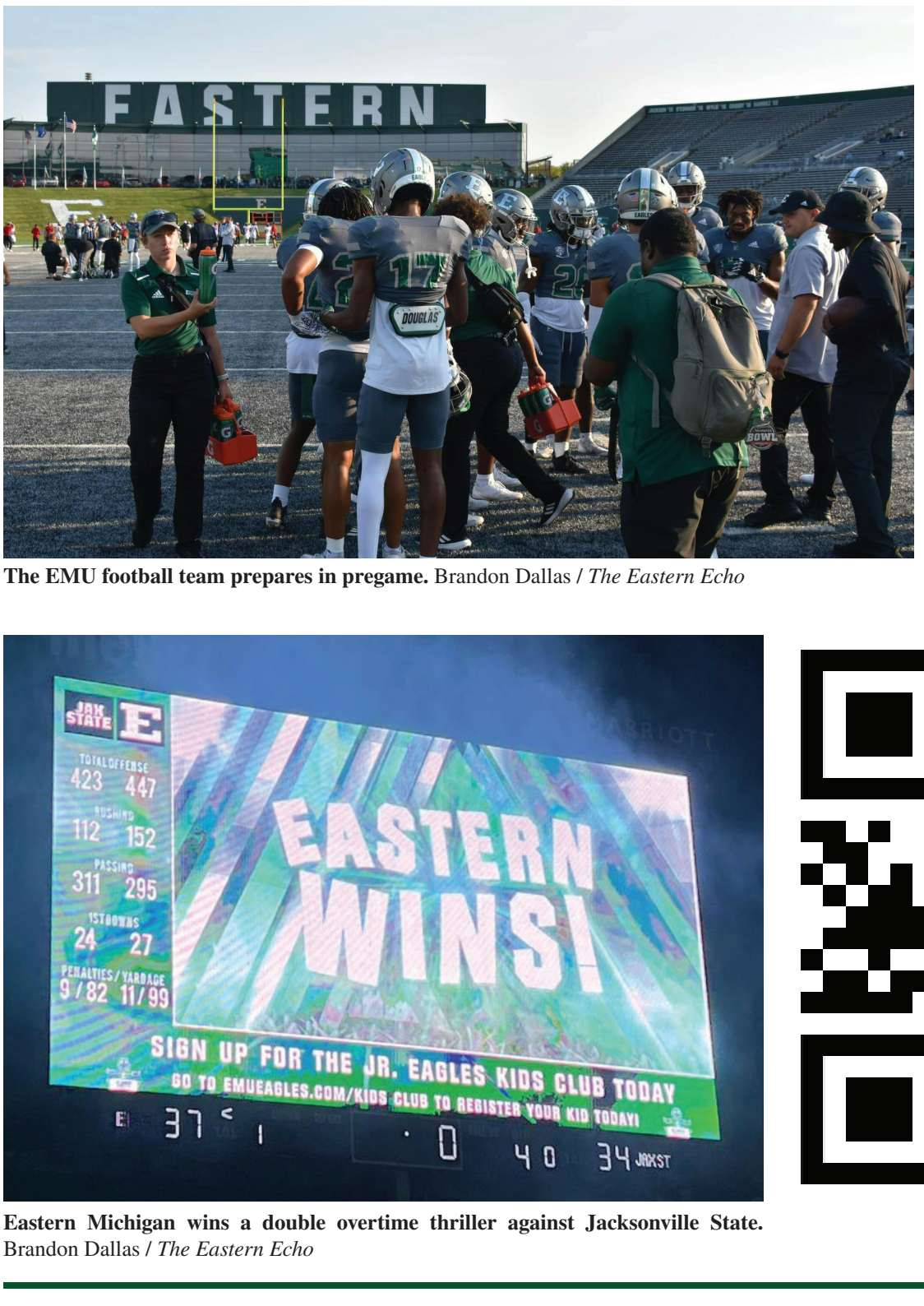
Find more comics on our website!

EMU football celebrates first home game of season

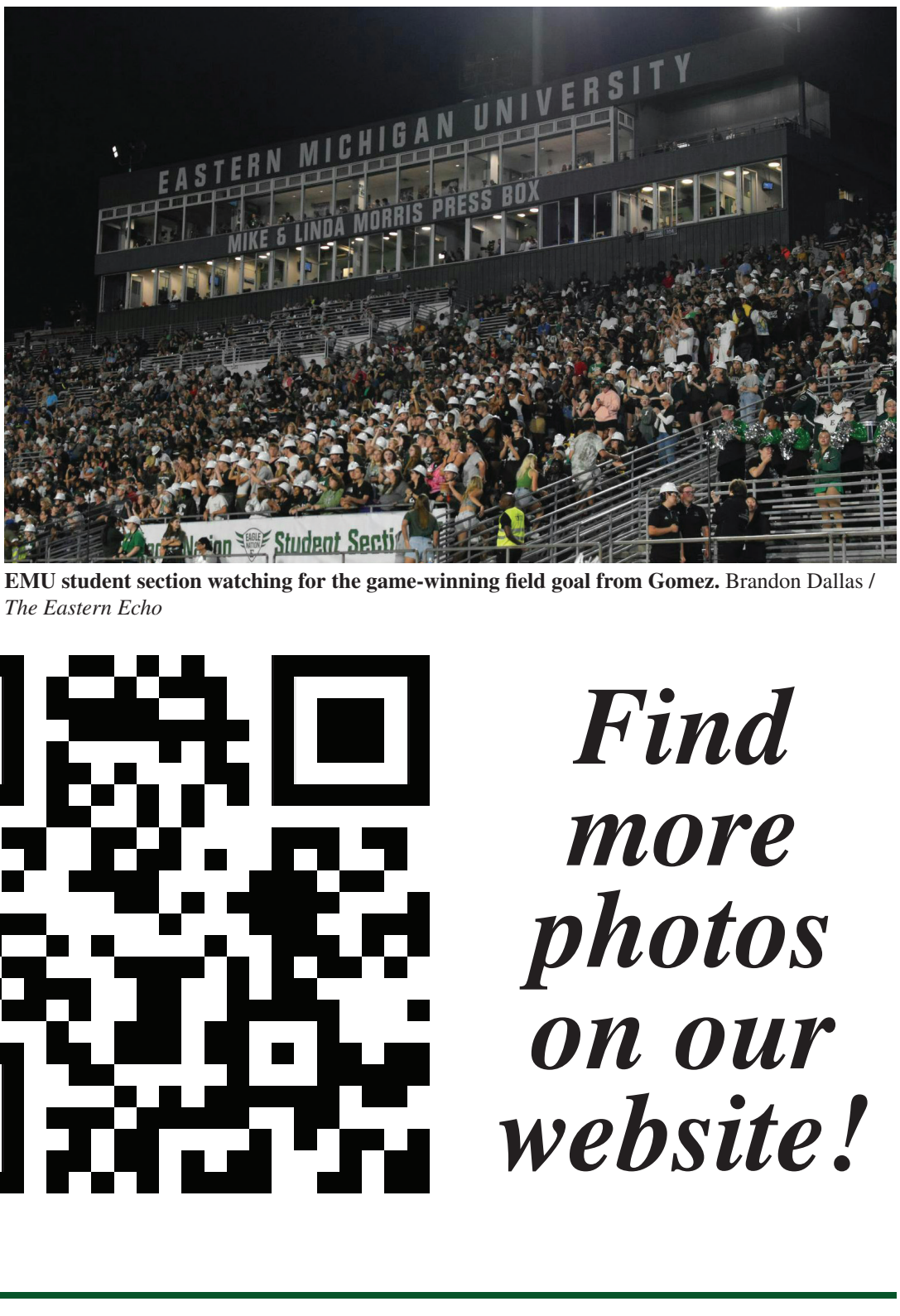
Spectators watch the Eastern Michigan Eagles play their first home football game on Saturday, Sept.14 as the sun sets. Brandon Dallas / *The Eastern Echo*

Football players prepare for face off against Jax State, as their competitors look on. Brandon Dallas / *The Eastern Echo*

Solomon Bell, a junior wide receiver, poses for a photo. Brandon Dallas / *The Eastern Echo*



The EMU football team prepares in pregame. Brandon Dallas / *The Eastern Echo*



EMU student section watching for the game-winning field goal from Gomez. Brandon Dallas / *The Eastern Echo*

Eastern Michigan wins a double overtime thriller against Jacksonville State. Brandon Dallas / *The Eastern Echo*

Find more photos on our website!